

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMSListing of Claims in the case:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions.

1-37. (Cancelled)

38. (New) A computer implemented method for a Practical Extraction Report Language (PERL) program to access a distributed object via Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA), comprising:

 said PERL program calling a dynamic shared library, said call providing a list of requested fields and an empty list in which to store returned values;

 said dynamic shared library manipulating input and output array references in said call;

 said dynamic shared library converting input array references to be compliant with a C programming language;

 said dynamic shared library converting the requested field list into a CORBA equivalent list;

 said dynamic shared library calling a Distributed Object Server responsive to said call from said PERL program; and

 said dynamic shared library providing said PERL program with access to values returned by said Distributed Object Server.

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39. (New) A computer implemented method as recited in Claim 38, wherein said PERL program and said dynamic shared library execute as a single computing process.

40. (New) A computer implemented method as recited in Claim 38, wherein said dynamic shared library is written in a first programming language and said PERL program is written in second programming language.

41. (New) A computer implemented method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said dynamic shared library is substantially compliant with a C programming language.

42. (New) A computer implemented method as recited in Claim 40, further comprising:

 said PERL program accessing user information over a number of databases by connecting to a server via said CORBA.

43. (New) A computer implemented method as recited in Claim 38, further comprising:

 said Dynamic Shared Library converting said values returned by said Distributed Object Server to a format that is substantially compliant with a C programming language.

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44. (New) A computer readable medium having stored thereon program instructions for allowing a Practical Extraction Report Language (PERL) program to access a distributed object via Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA), said instructions carrying out a method comprising:

 said PERL program calling a dynamic shared library, said call providing a list of requested fields and an empty list in which to store returned values;

 said dynamic shared library manipulating input and output array references in said call;

 said dynamic shared library converting input array references to be compliant with a C programming language;

 said dynamic shared library converting the requested field list into a CORBA equivalent list;

 said dynamic shared library calling a Distributed Object Server responsive to said call from said PERL program; and

 said dynamic shared library providing said PERL program with access to values returned by said Distributed Object Server.

45. (New) A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 44, wherein said PERL program and said dynamic shared library execute as a single computing process.

46. (New) A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 44, wherein said dynamic shared library is written in a first programming language and said PERL program is written in second programming language.

47. (New) A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 46, wherein said dynamic shared library is substantially compliant with a C programming language.

48. (New) A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 44, further comprising:

 said PERL program accessing user information over a number of databases by connecting to a server via said CORBA.

49. (New) A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 44, wherein said further comprises:

 said Dynamic Shared Library converting said values returned by said Distributed Object Server to a format that is substantially compliant with a C programming language.

50. (New) A computer system for providing communication between a Practical Extraction Report Language (PERL) program and a distributed object, said computer system comprising:

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means for calling a dynamic shared library, wherein said call provides a list of requested fields and an empty list in which to store returned values; means for manipulating input and output array references in said call; means for converting input array references to be compliant with a C programming language; means for converting the requested field list into a CORBA equivalent list; means for calling a Distributed Object Server responsive to said call from said PERL program; and means for providing said PERL program with access to values returned by said Distributed Object Server.

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